Geropsychiatric Care Center

The purpose of this program is to manage the care of seniors under Florida’s Baker Act from nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals and law enforcement. There are no other treatment resources in Brevard County for these individuals. They must be treated, but once stabilized it is difficult to find appropriate placement. Court proceedings for long term commitments to State Hospital facilities are often initiated on behalf of these individuals to secure safe treatment, with wait times up to 60 days for an appropriate State Hospital bed.

As the Community Mental Health Center serving Brevard County, Circles of Care provides a comprehensive continuum of behavioral healthcare services to its residents. As the proportion of aging and geriatric patients in our community increases, the community is challenged with the need for high quality services for a population that often has comorbid disease states and critical concomitant psychosocial needs that include dependent care services, adequate housing, and long term treatment.

In recognition of the specific psychiatric needs and challenges associated with an aging, psychiatrically disabled population, Circles of Care maintains a separate 24-bed unit within its 52-bed hospital specifically designed for the care and treatment of elderly patients with mental illness and dementia. These patients, imminently dangerous to themselves or others, are often referred via the Baker Act from nursing homes, assisted living facilities, the courts, law enforcement, and families that can no longer provide a safe environment in which to care for their aging relatives.

As the Baker Act receiving facility in Brevard County, Circles of Care accepts for evaluation all medically stable referrals - regardless of payment for services. Though most senior patients have some source of payment, benefits are usually limited to a few (5-10) days for psychiatric crisis evaluation and stabilization. However, the psychiatrically disabled geriatric population with severe concomitant psychosocial restrictions pose an extreme challenge as they have specific mental health issues that severely limit placement back into the community.

These are the patients with no community support: They are bereft of family that might care for them; rejected by even nursing homes and ALFs as too difficult to care for – even with a payer source. Historically, in its role as a local community crisis hospital and the public safety net, these types of patients have been court-ordered to one of the State Hospital facilities at a greater cost to the state system because of the lack of suitable local care and the need for longer-term treatment.

Program Solution
Over the past three years, Circles of Care has developed its own program for this difficult
population. The program was originally implemented as a means of treating patients while waiting for a bed to become available at the state hospital – a wait of up to 60 days.

Circles of Care has determined that over the course of these very long periods the program with its array of medical and behavioral health treatments can often raise the functioning level so that patients can be discharged locally to nursing homes, ALFs, or other resources without the need for the very lengthy and costly State Hospital facility commitment. Local magistrates, respecting the expertise are pleased to lift long-term commitment orders to facilities out of county for some of the community’s most frail patients.

4. **Amount of Request:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Requested for Operations</th>
<th>Amount Requested for Fixed Capital Outlay</th>
<th>Total Amount of Requested State Funds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$890,000</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$890,000</td>
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5. **Total Project Cost (if greater than Total Requested State Funds):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$890,000</td>
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6. **Type, Amount and Percent of Match:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Match</td>
<td>297,000</td>
<td>33.4%</td>
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7. **Was the project previously funded by the State?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year(s)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>$890,000</td>
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8. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**

Yes

9. **Program Performance (if needed, include additional documentation):**

a. How will requested funds be spent? Include supporting documentation.

The requested funds will purchase 5.2 inpatient psychiatric Baker Act beds for Brevard County. These beds, owned and operated by Circles of Care, are a portion of the 52 licensed adult inpatient beds at Circles of Care’s Baker-Act designated receiving facility – the only public receiving facility serving Brevard County. The facility enjoys Joint Commission accreditation according to both the Joint Commission’s inpatient hospital and behavioral healthcare standards. Furthermore, the beds are specifically intended for aging seniors in the community and to provide local treatment in lieu of court-ordered commitments to State Hospital facilities.

b. Identify expected program results and the expected benefit associated from the requested funds.

The program expects to: (1) Reduce the number of commitments to civil state psychiatric facilities in the geriatric population; (2) Provide local treatment of severe and persistently mentally ill geriatric patients in lieu of commitments to civil State Hospital psychiatric facilities; (3) Restore the psychiatric level of functioning to a stage that makes a less restricted, local placement a viable option for these patients; and (4) Reduce the overall cost of inpatient treatment for this population.

c. Who will benefit from receipt of State funds?

Those that will benefit from receipt of state funds include: (1) The most direct population to benefit are...
the elderly inpatient psychiatric patients, generally committed pursuant to a Baker Act, that require more stabilization time than a typical crisis patient. With comorbid medical conditions, these patients are frequently unable to be released to the community without longer term treatment in a more restrictive environment. By allocating funding to the local Community Mental Health Center, these patients can be treated locally in their community. (2) This in turn, alleviates the burden placed upon the State Hospital facilities system by providing resources for patients to receive treatment locally. At the time of this writing, the wait time to transfer a patient from a local crisis or inpatient psychiatric hospital is over 60 days. (3) Other community partners including Law Enforcement, nursing homes, assisted care facilities, the courts, and local area hospitals benefit in securing a facility to which they can refer these patients that are deemed imminently dangerous to themselves or others. (4) The general community at large as the recipients of a program that addresses, in part, the climbing numbers of an aging dependent population with psychiatric, neurocognitive, and other medical comorbidities that lack a family or social network qualified to care for the patient.

d. What specific measures will be used to document performance data for the project, if it receives funds?

(1) Length of stay – this indicator, compared to lengths of stay at civil psychiatric State Hospitals will provide direct measurement of the cost effectiveness of the program; (2) Recidivism – the recidivism rate compared to the recidivism rate of other populations will measure the clinical effectiveness of the program.

10. Requestor Contact Information:
   a. Name and Title: David L. Feldman, Executive Vice President / Stephen L. Lord, Vice President of Information Services
   b. Organization: Circles of Care, Inc.
   c. E-mail Address: dfeldman@circlesofcare.org
   d. Phone Number: 321-480-9835

11. Recipient Contact Information:
   a. Organization: Circles of Care, Inc.
   b. Municipality and County: Melbourne, Brevard County
   c. Organization type (check all that apply):
      □ For-profit Corporation
      ☒ Not-for-profit Corporation
      ☒ 501c3 entity
      □ Other (please specify) [Click here to enter text.]
   d. Contact Name and Title: David L. Feldman Executive Vice President / Stephen L. Lord Vice President of Information Services
   e. E-mail Address: dfeldman@circlesofcare.org ; slord@circlesofcare.org
   f. Phone Number: 321-480-9835 / 321-693-6899